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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 696
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach George Hockenberry and the Murfreesboro Central Middle School girls' basketball team on being crowned the Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association 1999-2000 state champions.

WHEREAS, Tennessee athletic teams that deserve the rare title of "great" consistently work hard, play superbly, are team-oriented rather than individually oriented, and turn setbacks into setups for comebacks; and

WHEREAS, the admirable 1999-2000 Murfreesboro Central Middle School girls' basketball team has won the prestigious Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association State Tournament, because of the excellent quality of their play and their numerous accomplishments these exceptional young athletes are richly deserving of the title "great"; and

WHEREAS, this championship season marks the fourth TMSAA state championship in the last five seasons for Central, who also won state titles in 1996, 1998, and 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Tigers also won the LMTC regular season and tournament titles; and

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WHEREAS, playing with extraordinary enthusiasm and vigor, Murfreesboro Central also won the TMSAA Southern Area championship; and

WHEREAS, **Head Coach George Hockenberry**, who is one of the most highly respected mentors in middle school basketball, and his fine **Assistants, Kerry Malone, Seth Burt**, and **M'Lisa Simpson** have done an excellent job of shaping the team into championship form; and

WHEREAS, the top players were: **Ashley Newman**, the TMSAA Mid-State Most Valuable Player; and **Mosheda Pettus, Niki Hughes**, and **Leah Leyhew**, each of whom were named to the All-State team; and

WHEREAS, other members of the squad who made a significant contribution to the overall success of the team were: **Jennifer Gregory, Ashley Hodge, Brittney Harris, Thierre Patterson, Ashley Haile, Regan Vaughn, Jenna Thomas, Breah Jones, Megan Carter, Christy Morris, Lindsey Sisco, Shay Smith, Lauren Barrett, Mallory Johnston, Kara Smith, Whitney Tanner, LaSheka Benford**, and **Krishenda Martin**; and

WHEREAS, the diligent managers were: **Tasha King, Mel Scudder, Racheal French**, and **Alison Wilson**; and

WHEREAS, the cheerleaders performed expertly under the guidance of their sponsors: **Vicky Petty, Matt Marlatt, Lee Anne Hayes**, and **Nancy Massell**; and

WHEREAS, this team of destiny truly took basketball to another level; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Coach George Hockenberry and the 1999-2000 Central Middle School girls' basketball team on winning the Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association state championship and on being a team of which we can all be proud.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copy.